

## Article 19 Amendment

## CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A multimedia data recording apparatus  
5 comprising:

a layer classification section that classifies  
multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers  
according to data contents or data precision;

a recording section that continuously records data  
10 classified into said layers in memory; and

a data amount reduction section that, when vacant  
capacity of said memory is at or below a threshold value,  
performs deletion in order starting with data classified  
into a lower layer of said hierarchical layers among data  
15 recorded in said memory.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus  
20 according to claim 1, wherein said layer classification  
section classifies said multimedia data into a plurality  
of hierarchical layers according to frame rate, required  
image quality or resolution, image variation amount  
between frames, required storage time, MPEG (Moving  
25 Picture Experts Group) data picture type, importance of  
a recorded event, or an enhancement layer of data coded  
by an MPEG scalable coding method.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus  
5 according to claim 1, wherein said data amount reduction  
section performs deletion in order starting with older  
data or less important data among data recorded in a lower  
layer.

10 6. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus  
according to claim 5, wherein said data amount reduction  
section does not delete data that has not passed a minimum  
storage time among data recorded in a lower layer.

15 7. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein:

said layer classification section sets said  
multimedia data in a plurality of segments according to  
a time of acquisition of this data and then classifies  
20 said multimedia data into said layers for each said  
segment; and

said data amount reduction section selects a segment  
whose said time of acquisition is older, and performs  
deletion in order starting with data recorded in a lower.  
25 layer within this segment.

8. (Amended) A monitoring system equipped with the

multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1, said monitoring system further comprising a detection section that detects event occurrence in a monitored area;

wherein said data amount reduction section excludes  
5 at least one or a plurality of layers in which data related to said event is recorded from data amount reduction as a protected layer.

9. (Amended) A monitoring system comprising:

10 the multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1;

a measuring section that measures frequency of access to data recorded in said memory; and

a change section that changes at least one or a  
15 plurality of layers in which data whose frequency of access is greater than or equal to a predetermined value among data recorded in said memory to a protected layer that is not subject to data amount reduction by said data amount reduction section.

20

10. (Amended) A monitoring system comprising:

the multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1; and

a determination section that determines mutual  
25 similarity of data recorded in said memory;

wherein said data amount reduction section performs deletion in order starting with data recorded in a lower

layer for a layer in which older data is recorded among data determined to have a high degree of similarity by said determination section.

5 11. (Amended) A multimedia data recording method comprising:

a layer classifying step of classifying multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to data contents or data precision;

10 a recording step of continuously recording data classified into said layers in memory; and

a data amount reducing step of, when vacant capacity of said memory is at or below a threshold value, taking older data or less important data among data recorded  
15 in said memory as its object, and reducing a data amount of these data.